

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, and 23-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 5, 7-16, and 18-21 are allowed. Also, claim 24 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 09135383. Claims 1-4, 6, 17, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamakita et al. (US 6,285,780). Applicants respond to the rejections in the following manner.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 22, and 23 based on the '383 reference.

Regarding the rejection based on the '383 reference, Applicants submit that the reference does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 22, and 23. The '383 reference relates to a device and method for measuring a visual field by image processing. The Examiner refers to the abstract and Figure 1 of the reference as allegedly disclosing the limitations of these claims. However, Applicants disagree for the following reasons.

The '383 reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data output by the image reading means, as required by claim 1. In fact, each of claims 1, 2, and 4 requires a reading side normalization processing condition determining means and the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means. The '383 reference, on the other hand, only discloses a single normalization parameter

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/281,969

calculation section. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, and 4 of the present invention are not anticipated by the '383 reference for at least this reason.

Claim 3 requires a normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, wherein the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means. However, the '383 reference does not even suggest a condition changing means. Instead, the '383 reference discloses a normalization parameter calculation section, which computes the parameter of the normalization processing. The device of the '383 reference uses the calculated normalization parameter to conduct normalization, but there is no disclosure of changing the normalization processing condition or carrying out normalization processing on image data under the changed normalization processing condition. Hence, Applicants submit that claim 3 is not anticipated by the '383 reference.

With respect to claim 22, Applicants herein rewrite claims 23 and 24 in independent form, cancel claim 22, and argue that the '383 reference fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of proposed amended claim 23. The Examiner has already indicated the allowability of claim 24, if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants submit that the '383 reference does not disclose the limitation of claim 23 of at least one of the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for

determining the normalization processing condition are output to the image receiving apparatus. Instead, the reference discloses the outputting of the image data itself. Accordingly, amended claims 23 and 24 are allowable over the '383 reference.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 17, 22, and 23 based on Yamakita et al.

The Yamakita et al. reference suffers from the same deficiencies as noted above in relation to the '383 reference. In particular, Yamakita et al. do not disclose the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data output by the image reading means of claims 1, 2, and 4. Instead, Yamakita et al. disclose a geometric normalizer 3 that measures normalizing parameters from an image of an iridial granule. Col. 11, lines 59-61.

Furthermore, Yamakita et al. do not disclose the condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, wherein the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means of claim 3. Moreover, the Examiner does not even assert that the reference discloses these limitations. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 are not anticipated by Yamakita et al.

With respect to claim 6, Applicants submit that Yamakita et al. do not disclose a condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, as noted above for claim 3. Rather, Yamakita et al. appear to disclose determining normalization parameters and then using these parameters to normalize the image, without changing a normalization processing condition. Cols. 11-14.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/281,969

Also, Yamakita et al. fail to teach or suggest that the image reading apparatus outputs the normalization processing condition and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition, along with the image data. Rather, it appears that the reference only discloses outputting the image data. Hence, claim 6 is seen to be allowable over the prior art.

Applicants submit that claim 17 is not anticipated by Yamakita et al., at least because Yamakita et al. do not disclose a receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a second normalization processing condition based on reduced image data. The Examiner does not even assert that Yamakita et al. disclose this limitation.

Furthermore, the Examiner does not assert that the reference discloses, and the reference does not appear to disclose, that the second normalization processing condition is output to the image reading apparatus and the reading side normalization processing means carries out normalization processing on the image data under the second normalization processing condition to obtain normalized image data to be output to the image receiving apparatus.

Hence, claim 17 is believed to be allowable over Yamakita et al.

With regard to claims 22-24, Yamakita et al. suffer from the same deficiencies as the '383 reference noted above. Accordingly, amended claims 23 and 24 are not anticipated by Yamakita et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/281,969

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 22 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

23. (Amended) An image output method [as claimed in Claim 22] wherein an image reading apparatus, comprising reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, outputs the image data to an image receiving apparatus; wherein,

in addition to the image data, at least one of the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition are output to the image receiving apparatus.

24. (Amended) An image output method [as claimed in Claim 22] wherein an image reading apparatus, comprising reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, outputs the image data to an image receiving apparatus;

wherein whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range is judged and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/281,969

in addition to the image data, at least one of the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition are output to the image receiving apparatus when the normalization processing condition is not within the predetermined range.